

Better Libraries for the Better Life
- Frederic J. Glazer

Reading is a Basic Tool in the Living
of a Good Life - Mortimer Adler

Report from ALA Conference

10,000 members of the American Library Association jammed San Francisco's convention hall, June 29 to July 5, for the annual convention. President Edward G. Holley presided over the general sessions which followed the theme of "Looking Forward to 1976". President-Elect is Allie Beth Martin, Director of the Tulsa Public Library.

West Virginia Library Commission's delegation was proud to bring back with them from the convention the coveted John Cotton Dana Award. James Humphry, Vice-President of H. W. Wilson Company, presented the award, "For Outstanding Public Relations among State Libraries... for a state-wide public relations program designed to create exposure for public libraries in a predominantly rural state."

Bicentennial Reading, Viewing, Listening

Distribution

150,000 Lists arrived at the Library Commission's office. We hope that this will be just a short detour before they get into the hands of your borrowers. The two lists—one for adults and one for young Americans—will be stocked in each

regional and service center library. Two samples are enclosed for the public, college, and school libraries. The Book Express Office will supply the twelve counties affiliated with its program.

Promotion

The American Issues Forum, a vehicle of the Adult Education Association, 810 Eighteenth Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20006, has many suggestions for promotion. But put first things first. Check to see which titles on the list your library owns and plan to fill in the large gaps right away. The investment for each list is about \$1,000. If your library can't afford the books, approach your regional or service center library for assistance.

Once your book supply is secured, move on to sponsorship of activities to promote use of the books. The background reading would be an excellent activity to combine with Library Friends sponsored programs co-sponsored with any active civic group, e.g., Kiwanis Clubs with a national membership of 500,000 have agreed to develop discussion seminars around the American Issues Forum Topics.

Suggested activities to relate to the booklists: (1) *A Dramatic Reading* to introduce each issue from an important book, (2) *Speakers*, a series of nine—one each month—drawing

on talent from your local community. (3) *Films*—an excellent list is found in the June issue of the Bicentennial Times, (4) *Poll Your Community* on one of the issues, e.g., "How can we best serve our country, our families, and ourselves?", (5) *Book Discussions*, e.g., select a discussion leader who would devise provocative questions—discuss one important book and limit the group to about twelve, (6) *Sponsor an Essay Contest* for local school children. Select one quote from each of the nine topics. Arrange for prizes and an award ceremony.

The West Virginia Bicentennial Office publishes a monthly Bicentennial Bulletin. They will be mailing this letter to all libraries in the State starting with the current issue. Order the *Bicentennial Times* from American Bicentennial Administration, Washington, D. C. 20276. (It is a monthly.)

Background of Bicentennial

Congress first authorized the celebration with the creation of a Bicentennial Commission, July fourth, 1966. Three themes were established:

1. *Heritage '76*—a nation-wide summons to recall our heritage—re-examining origins, values, and meanings. 2. *Festival U. S. A.*—a program of activities and events
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WVLC NEWSLETTER

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stimulating travel. 3. *Horizon '76*—a challenge for individuals and communities to undertake at least one improvement project which would generate pride and hope in the community.

Due to heavy criticism from the press, Congress revised the original Bicentennial Law in 1973, and renamed the organization "American Revolution Bicentennial Administration". Better known as ARBA, it has a 25 member Advisory Board. In March, 1974, John W. Warner, former Secretary of the Navy under Nixon, resigned to accept the position of Administrator. This group is the official one funded by Congress.

In contrast, the People's Bicentennial Commission, founded in November, 1971, by Jeremy Rifkin, is a nonprofit public foundation. They have labeled ARBA the Tories (represented by government and big business). They have a number of publications which can be obtained by writing them at Washington, D. C. 20036.

Librarians should be prepared to assist with research. During July, the following magazines will feature Bicentennial articles: *Readers' Digest*, a national overview article by Robert O'Brien—and eight page Mini Mag: *Good Housekeeping*, "Official Bicentennial Quilt", *Nations' Business*, "How Business Can Become Involved", *Woman's Day*, "Bicentennial Sampler", and *Datsun Action*, "Bicentennial Overview—an interview with John Warner; *Odyssey*, "Bicentennial Events".

ARBA has printed four posters: the "Get Into America" series of three posters; one features Abraham

Lincoln, one, Uncle Sam, and the third, The Banjo Player. (\$1.15 each.) The fourth poster, "A Past to Remember, A future to Mold", is \$1.00. ARBA also has a "Documents of Democracy" Booklet, 4000-00329, 1975, 95¢.

Youth Project

Lannie Katzman, District Director for the National Speech Teachers Association, reports that high school debates are being sponsored using the same topics as the American Issues Forum. There will be awards for formal debates, and extemporaneous speeches. Check with your high school speech department to find out if they know about the program. We will supply more details later.

With the Instant Libraries

Sod busting became the local sport with ground breaking for two Instant Libraries vying to be first. Over a hundred persons attended the Cross Lanes Branch ceremonies where Kanawha County plans an Instant facility. Various delays in the past twelve months prompted this intense interest. The movement for service in this area has been spearheaded by the Junior Woman's Club, led by Virginia Simmons and assisted by Velda Allison. In the Ohio Valley at *Mason City*, festivities were planned but showers brought down the curtain. This is a project of the new Mason County Library Board, headed by L. W. Getty. The librarian, Evelyn Proffitt, looks forward to the new room after one year's operation in a Pioneer Model bookmobile, parked on blocks. *Ansted*, on the mountain tops of Fayette County, has had five approvable sites offered for their new Instant building. They will operate as a branch of Fayette County Library. Chief negotiator has been David Fox, a member of City Council.

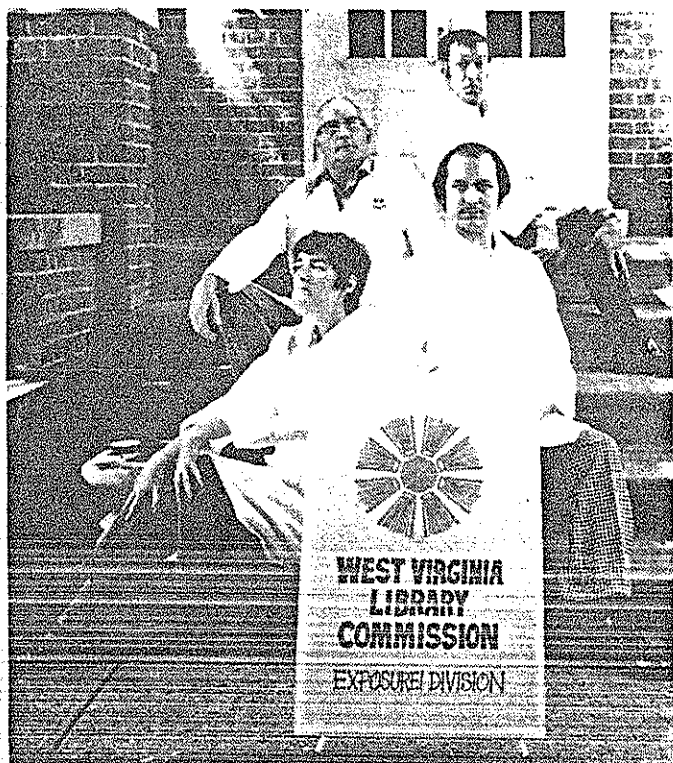
Paden City dedicated its octagonal building after a year's occupancy. Sharing in the dedication ceremonies was Senator William L. Gilligan, Mayor Bill Ford, Paul Feldmeier, Chairman of the Board, and Frances Jones, Field Consultant from the Library Commission.

Construction Report

The Library Commission meeting was in regular session on May 9, 1975. Five hearings on new building requests were heard: \$30,000 to remodel an existing church building at Big Chimney to serve all of Elk Valley; \$200,000 for a brand new county facility at Point Pleasant; \$80,000 for a remodeling grant at Clendenin; \$100,000 for a new facility in Richwood; \$215,000 for a city-county library for New Martinsville and Wetzel County. Grants were made to all of the projects with the exception of Kanawha County where some mediation between two communities seemed warranted.

It's Just Our Type!

The EXPOSURE! Division of the West Virginia Library Commission has recently welcomed a fabulous new computer type-setter into its growing collection of equipment. The "Comp/Set 500" is capable producing camera-ready type in sizes, and eliminates much of the time consuming paste-up work which was previously necessary to print jobs for the press. Currently, type can be produced in four different styles including bold, light, and italic faces each. We hope you'll stop by our offices to see a demonstration of this remarkable equipment with its type screen, flashing lights, bells, and speedy results. Newsletter was created "Comp/Set 500" type this time. If you are as pleased as we are.



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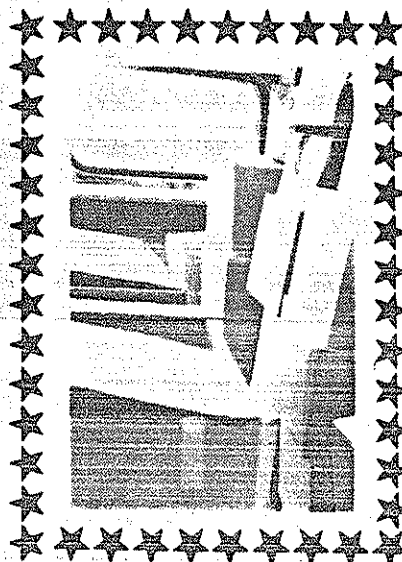
1. WVLC's hard-working "EXPOSURE!" staff strikes a comic deadpan pose for the camera during a rare spare moment. They have a lot to celebrate: A first place National John Colton Dana Public Relations Award now hangs on the wall to justify their creative way of doing things, and the welcome addition of a computer type machine is giving printed materials a new professional glow. Counter clockwise: Carol Bryan, Steve Christo, Lee Soard, and Ross Taylor.

2. Frederic J. Glazer proudly accepts the John Colton Dana Award from James Humphry, Vice-President of the H. W. Wilson Company, which sponsored the competition. Winners were honored during ALA at a reception held at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco. Since this was the first year West Virginia had submitted an entry, the first place win was especially exciting.

3. Stacks of a different sort are on view here. You are looking at cartons of some of the 150,000 Bicentennial Reading Lists slated for distribution to libraries around the State.

4. "WEST VIRGINIA IN PRINT", a special promotion sponsored by The Diamond Department Store, was enhanced by the appearances of Kristi Wick, our stunning Miss West Virginia, and Frederic J. Glazer, who obviously enjoyed the dish he selected at the buffet brunch. WVLC was invited to present a slide show of creative work done by "EXPOSURE!" for libraries as a part of the festivities.

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